

Remarks/Arguments

Claims

Prior to this Reply and Amendment, claims 1-48 were pending. Claims 2-4 and 8-10 have been amended. Claims 1 and 11-18 have been cancelled. Claims 49-57 have been added. Following entry of this Reply and Amendment, claims 2-10 and 19-57 will be pending. Support for the foregoing amendments can be found throughout the specification as filed. No new matter enters by way of these amendments.

Response to Detailed Action

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Regarding paragraph 1 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP 04-201335.

Claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 8-10 have been amended, thereby obviating this rejection.

Regarding paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP 08-157239 in view of two other references.

Claims 11-18 have been cancelled, thereby obviating this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Without necessarily agreeing with the rejections of the cancelled claims, Applicant has cancelled the rejected claims to advance prosecution of this case, and Applicant maintains the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in a continuation application.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all outstanding rejections and pass this application to issue. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided if she believes that such contact will expedite allowance of the claims.

Date: March 30, 2006

Very Truly Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ASB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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